



STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

June 25, 2008

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor, Fifth District
Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office strongly opposes NORA, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008, slated for the November 4, 2008, ballot. For the reasons stated below, we urge the CCJCC to oppose this unneeded and incredibly wasteful proposition.

While NORA promises to end the cycle of drug abuse, crime, and incarceration by adding and/or amending 47 sections of the Government, Health and Safety, Penal, and Welfare and Institutions Codes, the provisions are both vague and filled with minutiae. There is no proof that the programs proposed by NORA will be successful; but once passed, the provisions of NORA could only be changed by a four-fifths vote of the Legislature.

The provisions of NORA set the price tag for this reform at a minimum of \$2.9 billion between 2009 and 2015. For this money, the People of the State of California will receive nearly 50 new supervisory positions and two new divisions in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a 19-member "Parole Reform Oversight and Accountability Board," and a 23-member "Treatment Division Oversight and Accountability Commission."

Despite claims to the contrary, a court must grant probation to most convicted criminals if they appear "to have a problem with substance abuse or addiction." NORA clearly states that "Any defendant found eligible for treatment diversion under Track I, Track II or Track III shall be placed into appropriate treatment." A court "must rely upon the clinical assessment of the defendant" in determining appropriate treatment. (See Proposed Penal Code section 1210.02, subd. (a).)

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich
Page Two
June 25, 2008

Convicted criminals receiving "treatment" under NORA may continue drug use without fear of incarceration. They may also qualify for housing assistance, childcare, education stipends for college or trade school, transportation to and from drug treatment, and "harm reduction therapy" aimed at teaching responsible drug use.

Many prison inmates, including drug dealers and thieves, will benefit from shortened parole periods, and the ability to abscond from parole, use drugs and commit misdemeanors without being sent back to prison for the violation.

Two California universities will receive at least \$29 million of NORA funds between 2009 and 2015 to study the effectiveness of the NORA provisions.

Finally, an undetermined portion of the \$2.9 billion is to be spent on an "annual international conference on the subject of prisoner and parole rehabilitation."

Although freeing addicts from the cycle of drug use and criminality is a laudable goal, mandating treatment for all drug users is as inappropriate as mandating prison. Current alternatives to incarceration such as Diversion, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Proposition 36 and Drug Courts successfully serve those who want to end their dependence upon controlled substances and live crime-free lives. Diverting scarce public resources from these existing programs to fund commissions, studies, boards, and conferences with no guarantee of success is not going to decrease crime in California or free people from addiction. NORA, and the billions of dollars it will divert from existing programs, is not the right solution for California.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

SP/lkt

c: Judy Hammond
Public Information Office



STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

June 25, 2008

The Honorable Gloria Molina
Supervisor, First District
Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles
856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Molina:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office strongly opposes NORA, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008, slated for the November 4, 2008, ballot. For the reasons stated below, we urge the CCJCC to oppose this unneeded and incredibly wasteful proposition.

While NORA promises to end the cycle of drug abuse, crime, and incarceration by adding and/or amending 47 sections of the Government, Health and Safety, Penal, and Welfare and Institutions Codes, the provisions are both vague and filled with minutiae. There is no proof that the programs proposed by NORA will be successful; but once passed, the provisions of NORA could only be changed by a four-fifths vote of the Legislature.

The provisions of NORA set the price tag for this reform at a minimum of \$2.9 billion between 2009 and 2015. For this money, the People of the State of California will receive nearly 50 new supervisory positions and two new divisions in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a 19-member "Parole Reform Oversight and Accountability Board," and a 23-member "Treatment Division Oversight and Accountability Commission."

Despite claims to the contrary, a court must grant probation to most convicted criminals if they appear "to have a problem with substance abuse or addiction." NORA clearly states that "Any defendant found eligible for treatment diversion under Track I, Track II or Track III shall be placed into appropriate treatment." A court "must rely upon the clinical assessment of the defendant" in determining appropriate treatment. (See Proposed Penal Code section 1210.02, subd. (a).)

The Honorable Gloria Molina
Page Two
June 25, 2008

Convicted criminals receiving "treatment" under NORA may continue drug use without fear of incarceration. They may also qualify for housing assistance, childcare, education stipends for college or trade school, transportation to and from drug treatment, and "harm reduction therapy" aimed at teaching responsible drug use.

Many prison inmates, including drug dealers and thieves, will benefit from shortened parole periods, and the ability to abscond from parole, use drugs and commit misdemeanors without being sent back to prison for the violation.

Two California universities will receive at least \$29 million of NORA funds between 2009 and 2015 to study the effectiveness of the NORA provisions.

Finally, an undetermined portion of the \$2.9 billion is to be spent on an "annual international conference on the subject of prisoner and parole rehabilitation."

Although freeing addicts from the cycle of drug use and criminality is a laudable goal, mandating treatment for all drug users is as inappropriate as mandating prison. Current alternatives to incarceration such as Diversion, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Proposition 36 and Drug Courts successfully serve those who want to end their dependence upon controlled substances and live crime-free lives. Diverting scarce public resources from these existing programs to fund commissions, studies, boards, and conferences with no guarantee of success is not going to decrease crime in California or free people from addiction. NORA, and the billions of dollars it will divert from existing programs, is not the right solution for California.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

SP/lkt

c: Judy Hammond
Public Information Office



STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

June 25, 2008

The Honorable Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor, Second District
Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles
866 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Burke:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office strongly opposes NORA, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008, slated for the November 4, 2008, ballot. For the reasons stated below, we urge the CCJCC to oppose this unneeded and incredibly wasteful proposition.

While NORA promises to end the cycle of drug abuse, crime, and incarceration by adding and/or amending 47 sections of the Government, Health and Safety, Penal, and Welfare and Institutions Codes, the provisions are both vague and filled with minutiae. There is no proof that the programs proposed by NORA will be successful; but once passed, the provisions of NORA could only be changed by a four-fifths vote of the Legislature.

The provisions of NORA set the price tag for this reform at a minimum of \$2.9 billion between 2009 and 2015. For this money, the People of the State of California will receive nearly 50 new supervisory positions and two new divisions in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a 19-member "Parole Reform Oversight and Accountability Board," and a 23-member "Treatment Division Oversight and Accountability Commission."

Despite claims to the contrary, a court must grant probation to most convicted criminals if they appear "to have a problem with substance abuse or addiction." NORA clearly states that "Any defendant found eligible for treatment diversion under Track I, Track II or Track III shall be placed into appropriate treatment." A court "must rely upon the clinical assessment of the defendant" in determining appropriate treatment. (See Proposed Penal Code section 1210.02, subd. (a).)

The Honorable Yvonne B. Burke
Page Two
June 25, 2008

Convicted criminals receiving "treatment" under NORA may continue drug use without fear of incarceration. They may also qualify for housing assistance, childcare, education stipends for college or trade school, transportation to and from drug treatment, and "harm reduction therapy" aimed at teaching responsible drug use.

Many prison inmates, including drug dealers and thieves, will benefit from shortened parole periods, and the ability to abscond from parole, use drugs and commit misdemeanors without being sent back to prison for the violation.

Two California universities will receive at least \$29 million of NORA funds between 2009 and 2015 to study the effectiveness of the NORA provisions.

Finally, an undetermined portion of the \$2.9 billion is to be spent on an "annual international conference on the subject of prisoner and parole rehabilitation."

Although freeing addicts from the cycle of drug use and criminality is a laudable goal, mandating treatment for all drug users is as inappropriate as mandating prison. Current alternatives to incarceration such as Diversion, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Proposition 36 and Drug Courts successfully serve those who want to end their dependence upon controlled substances and live crime-free lives. Diverting scarce public resources from these existing programs to fund commissions, studies, boards, and conferences with no guarantee of success is not going to decrease crime in California or free people from addiction. NORA, and the billions of dollars it will divert from existing programs, is not the right solution for California.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

SP/lkt

c: Judy Hammond
Public Information Office



STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

June 25, 2008

The Honorable Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District
Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles
822 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office strongly opposes NORA, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008, slated for the November 4, 2008, ballot. For the reasons stated below, we urge the CCJCC to oppose this unneeded and incredibly wasteful proposition.

While NORA promises to end the cycle of drug abuse, crime, and incarceration by adding and/or amending 47 sections of the Government, Health and Safety, Penal, and Welfare and Institutions Codes, the provisions are both vague and filled with minutiae. There is no proof that the programs proposed by NORA will be successful; but once passed, the provisions of NORA could only be changed by a four-fifths vote of the Legislature.

The provisions of NORA set the price tag for this reform at a minimum of \$2.9 billion between 2009 and 2015. For this money, the People of the State of California will receive nearly 50 new supervisory positions and two new divisions in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a 19-member "Parole Reform Oversight and Accountability Board," and a 23-member "Treatment Division Oversight and Accountability Commission."

Despite claims to the contrary, a court must grant probation to most convicted criminals if they appear "to have a problem with substance abuse or addiction." NORA clearly states that "Any defendant found eligible for treatment diversion under Track I, Track II or Track III shall be placed into appropriate treatment." A court "must rely upon the clinical assessment of the defendant" in determining appropriate treatment. (See Proposed Penal Code section 1210.02, subd. (a).)

The Honorable Don Knabe
Page Two
June 25, 2008

Convicted criminals receiving "treatment" under NORA may continue drug use without fear of incarceration. They may also qualify for housing assistance, childcare, education stipends for college or trade school, transportation to and from drug treatment, and "harm reduction therapy" aimed at teaching responsible drug use.

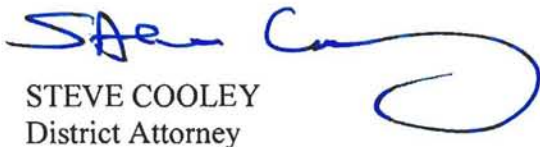
Many prison inmates, including drug dealers and thieves, will benefit from shortened parole periods, and the ability to abscond from parole, use drugs and commit misdemeanors without being sent back to prison for the violation.

Two California universities will receive at least \$29 million of NORA funds between 2009 and 2015 to study the effectiveness of the NORA provisions.

Finally, an undetermined portion of the \$2.9 billion is to be spent on an "annual international conference on the subject of prisoner and parole rehabilitation."

Although freeing addicts from the cycle of drug use and criminality is a laudable goal, mandating treatment for all drug users is as inappropriate as mandating prison. Current alternatives to incarceration such as Diversion, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Proposition 36 and Drug Courts successfully serve those who want to end their dependence upon controlled substances and live crime-free lives. Diverting scarce public resources from these existing programs to fund commissions, studies, boards, and conferences with no guarantee of success is not going to decrease crime in California or free people from addiction. NORA, and the billions of dollars it will divert from existing programs, is not the right solution for California.

Very truly yours,


STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

SP/lkt

c: Judy Hammond
Public Information Office



STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

June 25, 2008

The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor, Third District
Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Yaroslavsky:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office strongly opposes NORA, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008, slated for the November 4, 2008, ballot. For the reasons stated below, we urge the CCJCC to oppose this unneeded and incredibly wasteful proposition.

While NORA promises to end the cycle of drug abuse, crime, and incarceration by adding and/or amending 47 sections of the Government, Health and Safety, Penal, and Welfare and Institutions Codes, the provisions are both vague and filled with minutiae. There is no proof that the programs proposed by NORA will be successful; but once passed, the provisions of NORA could only be changed by a four-fifths vote of the Legislature.

The provisions of NORA set the price tag for this reform at a minimum of \$2.9 billion between 2009 and 2015. For this money, the People of the State of California will receive nearly 50 new supervisory positions and two new divisions in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a 19-member "Parole Reform Oversight and Accountability Board," and a 23-member "Treatment Division Oversight and Accountability Commission."

Despite claims to the contrary, a court must grant probation to most convicted criminals if they appear "to have a problem with substance abuse or addiction." NORA clearly states that "Any defendant found eligible for treatment diversion under Track I, Track II or Track III shall be placed into appropriate treatment." A court "must rely upon the clinical assessment of the defendant" in determining appropriate treatment. (See Proposed Penal Code section 1210.02, subd. (a).)

The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky
Page Two
June 25, 2008

Convicted criminals receiving "treatment" under NORA may continue drug use without fear of incarceration. They may also qualify for housing assistance, childcare, education stipends for college or trade school, transportation to and from drug treatment, and "harm reduction therapy" aimed at teaching responsible drug use.

Many prison inmates, including drug dealers and thieves, will benefit from shortened parole periods, and the ability to abscond from parole, use drugs and commit misdemeanors without being sent back to prison for the violation.

Two California universities will receive at least \$29 million of NORA funds between 2009 and 2015 to study the effectiveness of the NORA provisions.

Finally, an undetermined portion of the \$2.9 billion is to be spent on an "annual international conference on the subject of prisoner and parole rehabilitation."

Although freeing addicts from the cycle of drug use and criminality is a laudable goal, mandating treatment for all drug users is as inappropriate as mandating prison. Current alternatives to incarceration such as Diversion, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Proposition 36 and Drug Courts successfully serve those who want to end their dependence upon controlled substances and live crime-free lives. Diverting scarce public resources from these existing programs to fund commissions, studies, boards, and conferences with no guarantee of success is not going to decrease crime in California or free people from addiction. NORA, and the billions of dollars it will divert from existing programs, is not the right solution for California.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

SP/lkt

c: Judy Hammond
Public Information Office